

Appl. No. 10/072,316
Amdt. Dated October 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 81751.0029
Customer No. 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2004. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-15 and 17-18 remain in this application. Claim 1 is the independent Claim. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 11 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested

Allowable Claims:

On Page 5 of the Office Action, Claims 13-15 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the examiner and formally recognizes the allowable claims.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-12, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,079 (Komori); Claims 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of Claims 11 and 13 into Claim 1 to overcome the above rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejection of independent Claim 1 respectfully requested.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claim 1 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied reference and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

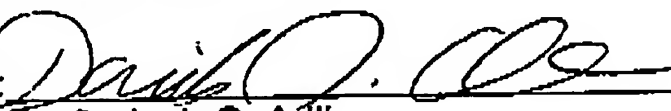
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 8, 2004

By: 
Dariush G. Adli
Registration No. 51,386
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701